

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## **Unity Statement in Support of HB 4209 and HB 4210**

Honourable Representative Klint Kesto and Judiciary Committee Members,

We represent local, state and national organizations that have played prominent roles in the advocacy of adopting and implementing effective medical marijuana policy in Michigan and many other states. These organizations represent diverse interests in the medical marijuana industry including medical marijuana patients, physicians, caregivers, advocates, provisioning centers, testing laboratories and many other entities that serve them.

This unity statement is issued to the House Of Representatives Judiciary Committee to accurately express the organizations' strong support for patient safety while improving the efficacy of the medical marijuana industry in this state. The current provisions contained in both HBs 4209 and 4210 reflect two full legislative sessions of work between major stakeholders to ensure patients gain consistent access to medicine that is clean, tested and safe. HB 4209 will greatly improve the quality of care and patient safety by regulating the distribution of the medical marijuana through safety compliance facilities and provisioning centers in communities that choose to regulate and license them. HB 4210 would significantly assist our sickest patients (including minors) by providing legal protection to those undergoing smoking alternative treatments of medical marijuana and by setting reasonable rules for distribution.

Passage of these two bills is critical and urgent, we are witness to a community of friends and loved ones who have and continue to struggle as they run out of time. Communities remain in limbo as to the current legal parameters of provisioning centers which has caused inconsistent, unfair and often over reaching enforcement on provisioning center operators, owners, landlords, patients and caregivers. More importantly, this has resulted in limiting safe access to medication, especially non-smokeable forms of medical marijuana, which many medical marijuana patients suffering from cancer, AIDS, seizures and other chronic disease must have consistent access to in order to achieve a successful treatment in coordination with their physician and caregiver.

Together, these two bills address our needs and do so in a way that can reflect the medical marijuana communities' support. Specifically we seek the following protections:

- Provide safe access to medical marijuana through licensed Provisioning Centers.
- Provide for the testing of medical marijuana through licensed Safety Compliance Facilities.

-Clarify that patients may possess and use smoking-alternative forms of medical marijuana.

Thank you for your timely consideration of these pressing issues for Michigan's medical marijuana patients. We stand before you to urge swift action, and remain committed to assisting this committee as you undertake the task of improving upon the Michigan Medical Marijuana Program.

Sincerely,  
National Patients Rights Association  
Cannabis Patients United  
Safer Michigan Coalition  
Marijuana Policy Project  
Michigan Cannabis Development Association  
Michigan Parents for Compassion  
Detroit Medical Cannabis Guild  
Ann Arbor Medical Cannabis Guild  
Pediatric Cannabis Therapy  
Michigan Chapter of Americans for Safe Access  
Michigan Medical Marijuana Association  
Michigan Affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws  
Lansing Medical Cannabis Guild

